IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

Cancel claims 1-16 and 18 without prejudice to filing a divisional application.

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A microscope apparatus ~~according to claim 16, wherein~~ comprising:

a microscope;

an first optical element having a preset transmittance with respect to light in a pre-set wavelength region, incident from the microscope; and

an electronic image sensor receiving the light transmitted through the first optical element, wherein:

the first optical element has a transmittance of 50 ± 10 % or less, and

the first optical element is placed so that a coated surface of the first optical element satisfies the following condition:

$$2 \times L1 \times \tan 2\theta + L1 \times \tan 4\theta \geq L2/2$$

where LI is a distance extending along an optical axis from the coated surface of the first optical element to a light-receiving surface of the electronic image sensor, L2 is a length of a minor side of an effective imaging area in a light-receiving section of the electronic image sensor, and θ is an angle made by a reference axis with the coated surface of the first optical element, where a direction perpendicular to the optical axis is assumed as the reference axis.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A microscope apparatus ~~according to claim 18~~, comprising:

a microscope;

an first optical element having a preset transmittance with respect to light in a pre-set wavelength region, incident from the microscope;

an electronic image sensor receiving the light transmitted through the first optical element; and

a second optical element, the first optical element and the second optical element having a transmittance of 50 % or less with respect to light in a wavelength range from 700 to 900 nm, of light incident from the microscope, wherein

one of the first optical element and the second optical element, closer to the microscope, is placed to satisfy the following condition:

$$2 \times L1 \times \tan 2\theta + L1 \times \tan 4\theta \geq L2/2$$

where L1 is a distance extending along an optical axis from a surface, situated on an opposite side of the microscope, of the optical element closer to the microscope to a light-receiving surface of the microscope, L2 is a length of a minor side of an effective imaging area in a light-receiving section of the microscope, and θ is an angle made by a reference axis with the surface, situated on an opposite side of the micro-scope, of the optical element closer to the microscope, where a direction perpendicular to the optical axis is assumed as the reference axis.